

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on March 11, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 12 and 13 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being obvious over Lien et al. in view of Armstrong.

Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the invention over the cited art. As described in the background section of this application, in multi-player computer games (e.g. role-playing games), it is common for players to have conversations by exchanging text messages that are not transmitted whole, but are divided into portions. Figs. 2A, 2B and 2C of the application illustrate one or more words being added to the end of a partial message until the complete sentence is displayed on the screen. As amended, the claims denote these added portions as "sentence components".

Lien et al. discloses a method for teaching reading by displaying sets of words which have something in common, e.g., words having typical vowel sounds or words beginning with a particular consonant (col. 2, lines 5 – 20). Although the Examiner alleges that the reference discloses a method "having a plurality of sentence components" (see O.A. page 2, line 19), that is not accurate because the sets of words in Lien et al. do not form a sentence. They are merely related words.

Lien et al. is totally silent with regard to limitation of controlling the rate at which sentence components appear on the screen in response to pressure sensing means. The reference only discloses the well-known feature of controlling a rate of presentation based on the length of time a key is continuously depressed (col. 2, lines 28 – 35), but nothing about the force with which the key is depressed.

Armstrong '084 discloses a pressure-sensitive sensor that includes tactile feedback. The device is not illustrated in connection with a method for displaying sentences on a screen or components thereof. As noted by Armstrong, pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensors have been known for decades (col. 2, lines 24 – 26). The reference discloses an improved type of such a device, but that information would not have suggested how (or why) a person of skill in the art would wish to display the sequential rate at which a message composed of sentence

09/157,807
31150008 01

- 5 -

components should be displayed. Armstrong '084 fails to provide any motivation to modify the construction of Lien. As the CAFC has clearly held, the Examiner is required to show with evidence the motivation, suggestion or teaching of the desirability of making the specific combination at issue. Evidence is required to counter the powerful attraction of a hindsight-based obviousness analysis. See, for example, *In re Lee*, 277 F.3d 1338, 1343, 61 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1430, 1433 (Fed. Cir. 2002) ("Our case law makes clear that the best defense against the subtle but powerful attraction of a hindsight-based obviousness analysis is rigorous application of the requirement for a showing of the teaching or motivation to combine prior art references").

It is respectfully submitted that this legal requirement involves more than a mere bald assertion that it would be obvious to combine the cited references. With respect, the Examiner has failed to indicate why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine the teachings of Lien and Armstrong '084. In fact, the Examiner has not cited any passage from Armstrong in his §103(a) rejection. *In re Lee* requires that the record must state with particularity all the evidence and rationale on which the PTO relies for a rejection and sets out that it is necessary to explain the reasons one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to select the references and to combine them to render the claimed invention obvious. Under *Lee*, the PTO must state in writing the evidence on which it bases its rejection. With respect to the §103(a) rejection based in part on Armstrong '084, the present office action falls short of this requirement.

Applicant respectfully submits that Lien lacks a fundamental teaching of the claimed invention with respect to sentence components, which teaching cannot be cured by any disclosure in Armstrong '084. Armstrong '084 does not disclose or suggest any reason to control the sequential rate of display of sentence components in accordance with the magnitude of the output value of the pressure sensing means.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-10 and 12-13, consisting of independent claims 1, 4 and 9 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any

09/757,807
31150008 01

- 6 -

reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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- 7 -